

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEGUCI 02667 262108Z

12

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 CU-04 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

DRC-01 /075 W

----- 040873

R 262030Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7433

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 2667

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, HO

SUBJECT: TEACHERS' STRIKE

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION HAVE BEEN CARRYING OUT A SERIES OF PARTIAL STRIKES IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS. THEY ARE DEMANDING A 50 PERCENT INCREASE IN SALARIES WHILE THE GOVERNMENT HAS INSISTED THAT IT DOES NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT RESOURCES IN 1974 TO MEET THEIR DEMANDS. UNLESS THERE IS A COMPROMISE ON THE PART OF BOTH SIDES THE PRESENT SITUATION COULD DEGENERATE INTO A PARALYZATION OF THE ENTIRE SCHOOL SYSTEM. END SUMMARY.

1. POLOFFS SPOKE TO MINISTER OF EDUCATION NAPOLEON ALCERRO ON JUNE 25 CONCERNING A DEVELOPING TEACHERS' STRIKE. THE FOUR TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS HAVE BEEN REQUESTING AN INCREASE OF 50 PERCENT IN THEIR SALARIES AND PRESENTED THEIR REQUESTS TO THE MINISTERS OF FINANCE AND EDUCATION DURING THE PAST MONTH. THE GOH HAS REFUSED TO CONSIDER A SALARY INCREASE DURING 1974 BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT CLAIMS IT DOES NOT HAVE NECESSARY FINANCIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEGUCI 02667 262108Z

RESOURCES.

2. THE GOH STATED THAT IT WOULD INITIATE A STUDY TO CONSIDER THE SALARY LEVELS OF ALL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES. HOWEVER, THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUCH A STUDY COULD ONLY BECOME EFFECTIVE DURING 1975. THE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS REFUSED TO ACCEPT SUCH A COMPROMISE BECAUSE, IN THEIR VIEW, THE INFLATIONARY SPIRAL IS SO SERIOUS THAT THEY ARE IN IMMEDIATE NEED OF AN INCREASE. AS A RESULT A PROGRESSIVE STRIKE OF TEACHERS STARTED IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS ON JUNE 25.

3. MINISTER ALCERRO SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD GONE TO EXHAUSTIVE LENGTHS TO PROVE TO THE TEACHERS THAT NO FUNDS WERE AVAILABLE FOR A 1974 INCREASE, BUT THAT THEY HAD REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE GOVERNMENT'S EXPLANATIONS. HE SAID THAT AN EVENTUAL CLOSURE OF THE ENTIRE SCHOOL SYSTEM IS POSSIBLE IF THE TEACHERS DO NOT ACCEPT THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION IN REGARD TO SALARIES. HE REMARKED THAT THE STRIKE AT BASE IS POLITICAL RATHER THAN ECONOMIC. HE COMMENTED THAT HE HAD NO PROOF BUT BELIEVED THAT THE SOVIET LINE COMMUNISTS ON THE ONE HAND AND THE NATIONALIST PARTY ON THE OTHER ARE URGING THE TEACHERS TO STRIKE IN HOPES OF EMBARRASSING THE GOVERNMENT.

4. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS POLOFFS WERE TOLD THAT THE TEACHERS ARE DETERMINED TO OBTAIN SALARY INCREASES IN 1974. THEY DENIED ANY POLITICAL INTEREST ON THEIR PART AND EMPHASIZED THAT IT IS PURELY A QUESTION OF ECONOMIC NEED. THEY COMMENTED THAT A CLOSURE OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM IS A DEFINITE POSSIBILITY IF THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CHANGE ITS POSITION.

5. COMMENT: THE POSITIONS OF GOH AND THE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS SEEM TO BE DAMETRICALLY OPPOSED AT THIS STAGE. UNLESS THERE IS SOME COMPROMISE ON THE PART OF BOTH SIDES IT APPEARS THAT A CONFRONTATION IS INEVITABLE. SUCH A SITUATION COULD WELL LEAD TO A STATE OF CONTINUING TENSION THAT COULD BE UTILIZED BY THE OPPOSITION TO CRITICIZE THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE QUESTION.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEGUCI 02667 262108Z

DAVIS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAGES, TEACHERS, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TEGUCI02667
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740169-0445
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740610/aaaaainw.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 SEP 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TEACHERS' STRIKE BEGIN SUMMARY: THE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION HAVE BEEN CARRYING
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, HO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005